

Guardian Challenge

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May 9, 2002

News Briefs

Don't block bins

Visitors to the hospitality suites are asked to not park in front of the buildings along Orcutt Street in the morning.

Trash vehicles must use that route to access the trash containers.

Limit vehicles at hangar

Participants and spectators are asked to limit the number of vehicles traveling to the hangar for the scoreposting banquet tonight.

Parking is limited.

Hangar still off-limits

The hangar remains off-limits to competitors until the start of the scoreposting banquet tonight.

If you have a legitimate need to get in the hangar, please call Maj. Sam Ayars, 606-2490

Base beaches

Vandenberg's Surf, Wall and Minuteman Beaches are open Fridays through Mondays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for recreational access.

The boundaries are marked and citations will be issued to people who enter closed areas.

For beach access or status information, call the Beach Hotline at 606-6804.



Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Hargreaves

Jay Buhner, retired Mariner outfielder, talks with Capt. Janice Hance, Col. Brad Ashley and 2nd Lt. Bryan Carlson at the "Curtain Raiser" banquet.

Star shines at Guardian Challenge

Airman 1st Class Mike Meares
GC public affairs

Guardian Challenge always attracts stars – at least the one, two, three and four variety. But this year, the brightest twinkle came from the baseball diamond.

Jay Buhner, retired outfielder for the Seattle Mariners, came to Vandenberg to view the competition activities and rub elbows with the troops.

Buhner's career stat sheet shows 310 home runs and 965 runs batted in. He thinks Guardian Challenge has an impressive record as well.

"This is outstanding. I'm excited,

honored and flattered to be here," he said.

Buhner made his appearance at the "Curtain Raiser" block party last night and plans on attending the scoreposting banquet tonight. He also went to the shooting range with some of the cops to shoot the M-16 and M-9 weapons.

Buhner wanted an opportunity to say thank you to the men and women serving the country.

"You guys are doing something that's unbelievable," said Buhner. "You're protecting and representing our country, which is the highest honor of all honors. You all are heroes in our eyes. Thank you for protecting us."

GC director has script for excitement

By Airman 1st Class Harold Barnes III
GC public affairs

It's showtime. There's more than a dozen cameras ready to shoot, hundreds of people blaring fog horns and the script is still changing. There can be only one in

charge and cool about the 2002 opening ceremony, Chris Zenor.

He's the Guardian Challenge director, and he has a core staff of about 30 people with an increase of people running wires,

See Zenor, Pg 8

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Behind the Scenes

Master Sgt. Mark Callahan

UNIT: 30th Transportation Squadron

YEARS IN SERVICE: 22
HOMETOWN: Sacramento, Calif.

GC ROLE: Master Sgt. Mark Callahan is the transportation project officer for GC 2002. "There are a lot of moving parts to this comp, and he makes it happen," said Capt. Mike Burk, ASFPC project lead. His unit arranged 164 vehicles for the event.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Osberry

Zenor

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Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Hargreaves
Chris Zenor, Guardian Challenge director, calls the shots from the back of the hangar at the opening ceremony with his assistant director, Gabe DeFrancisco.

contractors installing lights and commanders studying scripts.

Zenor began his career at Vandenberg in the early 70s, and after four years of service in the Air Force moved into a civilian spot here. He has moved up in the ranks in what has come to be known as visual information and has directed GC ceremonies since 1995.

"I've been with this (Guardian Challenge) since its beginnings," said Zenor, "and it just gets better and better."

The ceremonies give the director of motion media – and his crew – the opportunity to showcase their talents.

"The easiest part is getting my team excited," he said. Zenor said he couldn't do it without their support, and his team echoed the sentiment of mutual respect and professionalism that makes events like the GC opening ceremony memorable.

"He's always got his finger on the pulse of Guardian Challenge," said Gabe DeFrancisco, GC assistant director.

The fun isn't over for the team though. They're showcasing their talents once again at the scoreposting today.

Although the eight months of planning are coming to a head, Zenor said he and his team look forward to the "challenge" every year and can't wait for the 2003 ceremonies.

Guardian Challenge 2002

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Cops overcome obstacles at GC



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wallis

The security forces team from the 21st Space Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., negotiate their way through the "Tangle Foot" during the obstacle course event.



Photo by Senior Airman Stephen Schester

Senior Airman David Douglass Jr., 90th Space Wing, gets lifted to the resting area by his Wrangler teammates after completing the obstacle course competition.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Ramos

Staff Sgt. Chris Edgerton and Senior Airman Joshua Hinsey are stoked after they both finish the obstacle course competition. They represented the Security Forces team from the 460th Air Base Wing "Panthers," Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Ramos

Staff Sgt. Joseph Wengler, Senior Airmen Nicholas Lyle, Joshua Hinsey, and Staff Sgt. Chris Edgerton, security forces team competitors for the 460th Air Base Wing "Panthers," Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., show team spirit as they cross the obstacle course finish line together.



Photo by Senior Airman Edward Braly

Staff Sgt. Andy Moran, 30th Space Wing security forces competitor, pulls himself across the "Belly Robber" while competing on the obstacle course.



Photo By Amn Kara McCormick

Senior Airman Ronnie Lock, 310th Space Group, concentrates on making it through the "Belly Crawl" during the obstacle course competition Wednesday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Taubman

Senior Airman Joshua "Bert" Bertolotti, 341st SW, makes an emotional finish during the obstacle course portion of Guardian Challenge 2002.